

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Official Action dated 3 October 2003. Responsive to the objections and rejections made in the Official Action, Claims 6-8 and 23-25 have been amended by this Amendment. Additionally, Claims 1-5 and 9-22 have been canceled.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-5 and 8-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, as being unpatentable over Sakaguchi, et al., U.S. Patent #5,990,615. The Examiner rejected Claims 9-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by Sakaguchi, et al. However, the Examiner kindly indicated that Claims 6-8 and 23-25 would be allowable if rewritten in Independent form including all of the limitations of the base Claim and any intervening Claims.

Accordingly, Claims 6-7 and 23-25 have been amended to place Claims 6, 8, 23, 24, and 25 in Independent form, to include all of the limitations of their respective base Claims and any intervening Claims, of which there were none. Claim 7 has been amended to correct the language thereof and is dependent upon Claim 6. As Claim 6 is now believed to be allowable, Claim 7 is now dependent upon an allowable base Claim.

MR3003-10

Application No. 10/079,480

Responsive to Office Action dated 3 October 2003

For all the foregoing reasons, it is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Morton J. Rosenberg

Registration #26,049

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Rosenberg, Klein & Lee
3458 Ellicott Center Drive
Suite 101
Ellicott City, MD 21043
410-465-6678